

ORGANIZE LEAGUE TO HELP NEGROES

Welfare Work to Be State-wide, but
Early Activities Will Be in
Northeast Section.

AUGUSTUS V. HAMBURG PRESIDENT

By the adoption of bylaws and the election of officers the organization of the Negro Welfare League of New Jersey was effected yesterday afternoon at the Board of Trade rooms. As the bylaws say, "to carry on welfare work for negroes and to improve their social, economic and moral condition in urban communities" throughout the state, the league will, it is believed, devote its initial efforts to the northeastern section, especially Hudson, Bergen and Passaic counties, where the recent influx of negroes from the South has been felt particularly.

More than 100 members of the new organization from this city, the Oranges, Montclair, Cranford, Westfield, Elizabeth, Jersey City, Morristown, Paterson, Passaic and other nearby places are present. Augustus V. Hamburg, former president of the Board of Trade, presided. Mr. Hamburg announced the receipt from "a good friend" of \$100 to help in the work.

Officers elected are: President, Mr. Hamburg; vice president, Rev. Oravia Bonfield, this city; second vice president, Dr. George E. Cannon, Jersey City; secretary, Rev. John D. Holden; treasurer, Arthur W. McDougall, both of this city. Mr. Hamburg and Mr. McDougall will hold office only until the league is well on the way to the accomplishment of beneficent ends. A board of managers of seventy-five and an executive committee of twenty-one members were chosen. Indications that much of the league's early work will be done in Newark and vicinity is contained in the personnel of these bodies, more than half in each case being from Essex County.

Any citizen of the state is eligible to membership. The executive committee, which will supervise the active work of the league, will meet monthly. The committees of the league are exemplified by the committees named in the bylaws: employment, training and social service.

MINUTES OF THE NEGRO WELFARE LEAGUE

January 23 1917.

Six speakers addressed the league: Blanche Marquette, secretary to the temporary committee of the Charity Organization Society of New York City; Donald Falconer, superintendent of the Urban's Aid Society; Dr. Bishop, president of the New England Missionary Convention; Dr. W. R. Valentine, principal of the downtown Industrial School; Mr. R. Pendleton and Rev. A. B. Bine of this city.

Mr. Marquette thought the league should devote its early efforts to the housing problem. Illness and death lurked in poorly constructed buildings. Dark rooms, inadequate sanitary facilities, the indiscriminate mixing of roomers and bad repair to the premises were the principal dangers. Pendleton more cautions with and do not neglect negro tenants than whites. He knew that the city authorities were so insistent on getting good housing facilities for their colored population as for their white brethren.

Mr. Stubblebine stressed the need of hospitals and employment bureaus for negroes. Y. M. C. A. and Y. W. C. A. facilities, care of colored men after release from jail, dental regulation and scientific tuberculosis. Mr. Pendleton stated housing conditions here.

Mr. Johnson told of the need of and will on the part of the new league. "We are not a poor and ignorant people," he said, "but we have as many chances of making good as any other race." Mr. Valentine told of the boys' work at the school. To extend the scope of the league's mass meeting will be held open to the public.

Jahud Baldwin
Life